

Public Comments

Antelope (Firearm and Archery)

Eric Schoenfelder

Lake Andes SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

I thought this is a proposal? " And finally what we are going to do is limit mentor youth hunting to private land only. What we expect this to do is" Sounds like the decision is already made but we are used to that with GFP proposals. Just going through the process making the public feel their opinion matters but the decision is already made. SDBI and many other sportsmen that take the field have voiced our concerns with the way the antelope has been managed (and mule deer) for quite some time most notably in 2019 and 2021 but nothing was done. Just last year Harding west had double tags and now we have 4 proposals to reduce the harvest of antelope. yes something drastic has to be done but I really don't think we should take the mismanagement out on the youth of our state. How about putting a cap on nonresident archery permits to a number that will actually do some good in reducing harvest and increase the quality of the hunt for everyone.

Tyson Allen

North Sioux City SD

Position: other

Comment:

Nonresidents need to be capped. It's becoming a last resort state for archery antelope which is making nonresidents flood here. Let alone, we already have a declining population in which resident rifle tags are going to be reduced, so why don't we combat it with dropping nonresidents tags for antelope? Make it a draw like other states do.

David Niemi

Buffalo SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

SDGF&P Commision:

I am opposed to the reduction of license numbers for antelope firearm and archery licenses in Harding County. The population of antelope is large that will need to be harvested. The does this spring have had twins and seeing triplets is not uncommon.

Please keep the license numbers higher in order to harvest this large number of antelope.

Respectfully yours,

David Niemi

A Harding County Sheep Producer

Dennis Vanderwerff

Platte SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

Mentor Antelope tags only valid on private land. So now many beginning hunters will not have the opportunity to hunt antelope. This will further accelerate the declining number of hunters!!

Archery and Muzzleloader Season

Tyson Allen

North Sioux City SD

Position: other

Comment:

I think nonresidents need to be capped on the number of tags given out for archery. It's been ridiculous out on public lands recently with nonresidents. Not saying we need to make them not welcome but our state gives unlimited tags to nonresidents which is nuts when you compare it to other states.

Fall Turkey

Dan Erikson

Sioux Falls SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

I am opposed shortening the spring turkey season statewide and adding tags to the fall season. The spring season is short enough the way it is and taking a week away would turn a lot of resident hunters away. It takes an opportunity away from them to hunt the best part of the year for turkeys. Adding fall tags doesn't benefit the hunters as fall hunting turkeys isn't as popular. Out of all the turkey hunters I know I have never heard of them hunting turkeys in the fall.

Other

Anthony Filholm

Brookings SD

Position: other

Comment:

The procedure for submitting public input on commission agenda items could use a little work. You indicate that all public input needs to be done 72 hrs in advance of the meeting. You put the commission agenda out on July 1st and expect people to digest it and reply by the 5th when its the busiest holiday weekend for camping of the whole year. I suggest putting the agenda out earlier or moving that meeting to the following week in July. Thanks for your time. Tony

Chris Gukeisen

Pierre SD

Position: support

Comment:

I support all 3 petitions submitted by Dana Rogers. Pressure on public land in South Dakota is becoming a major issue. Unlimited tags for ANY DEER/ANTELOPE is being broadcasted across youtube and social media. It has negatively effected public lands over the last several years. Each year gets worse than the last.

Jeffrey Olson

Rapid City SD

Position: support

Comment:

Please support the petitions brought forward by the SD Bowhunters

Scott Schemmel

Harrisburg SD

Position: support

Comment:

I support limiting the number of non resident archery tags and I support increasing the cost of a non resident archery tag.
I big game hunt in other states and South Dakota needs to get more in line with cost that other states are charging.

Craig Solberg

Pierre SD

Position: other

Comment:

Please consider limiting the number of nonresident archery tags for deer and antelope. I know of no other place where I as a nonresident can buy an over the counter tag every year to harvest any deer or any antelope (buck or doe). A limited resource with an unlimited harvest will not end well. One need look no further than the Custer State Park elk herd or the antelope herd in the Ft. Pierre National Grasslands to see what happens when big game herds are over-harvested. The end result is less opportunity in the field for all hunters, and loss of revenue for both local businesses and the Dept. of Game Fish and Parks.

Casey Skillingstad

Rapid City SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

I am opposed to adding crossbow as a legal method of take for paddlefish during archery season. During the season, the river becomes chaotic with boats. I have safety concerns with allowing loaded crossbows during this busy season. I believe what makes the archery season special is the difficulty of using a bow which would be tainted if crossbows were allowed.

Mark Nielsen

Yankton SD

Position: other

Comment:

it seems to me you are trying to make it so hard to fill out a application that us old guys just quit hunting its working thanks

Jeremy Wollman

Bonesteel SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

I would not be in favor of split turkey seasons in Gregory County. Given the uncertainty of spring weather, the proposed early split season would not allow hunters to effectively call in turkeys, nor allow hunters to efficiently access hunting property. However, if the split season would increase the number of overall tags for the turkey season, I would slightly support it.

William Schwarz

Pierre SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

I oppose the majority of the proposed changes to the Spring Turkey seasons. Please see attachment for further explanation.

See attachment #1

Amber Duncanson

Mapleton MN

Position: other

Comment:

French creek horse camp has been one of our favorite places to visit in SD. This year we brought our family with to trail ride. In the attachment there is a picture of two campers and no horses. We couldn't rent their stall because of a policy. Policy's are not laws and should be a case by case basis under the camp host discretion. Every year there are many empty stalls available because of multiple reasons. If a camper gives permission to use empty stalls the camp host needs to have the power to approve or disapprove. At that point the host needs to have the power to transfer the stall to the horse owners under their current camping reservations. We do appreciate the continuing investments at the horse camp.
Thank you

See attachment #2

Cody Christensen

Sioux Falls SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

I dont agree with this at all. There are many hunters out there, that can only hunt a couple of the weekends during the spring turkey season. If you limit their weekends, there is a good chance they won't hunt at all. I, myself can hunt 2 weekends a year, if lucky.

I'd like to see the books on our turkeys in this state. I've seen more turkeys everywhere I go in this state than I did 5 years ago. Let's get real and manage our own turkeys in South dakota than listen to what Southern states are doing to manage their population.

Clayton Lenk

Brainerd MN

Position: support

Comment:

Letter of support for changing the spring turkey season opening dates. - I am submitting on behalf of the SD NWTF State Chapter President Francis Strohfus.

See attachment #3

Ryan Roehr

Aberdeen SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

Please notify once this is received. Thank you, Ryan

See attachment #4

Jon Kludt

Mitchell SD

Position: support

Comment:

I support re-instating the Lake Mitchell 15 inch MLL and agree with the opinion Lake Mitchell Bassmasters has presented.

Ryan Kjelden

Mitchell SD

Position: support

Comment:

I support the 15in minimum Bass limit on Lake Mitchell in Davison Co.

Michael Shinstine

Mitchell SD

Position: support

Comment:

15 inch minimum size limit for Largemouth Bass and Smallmouth Bass on Lake Mitchell

Michael Shinstine

Mitchell SD

Position: support

Comment:

I support a 15 inch minimum size limit on Largemouth and Smallmouth Bass on Lake Mitchell, Davison County

Andy Vandel

Pierre SD

Position: other

Comment:

I support changing the spring turkey shotgun season opening day to the 3rd Saturday in April. I oppose doing the same for archery. I would support shifting both seasons one week later making the archery opener the 2nd Saturday. This will continue to give archery hunters an additional weekend while also keeping the harvest on mature gobblers low until later in April like the research recommends. This will be a good compromise to Dr. Lehman's recommendations.

Thanks,

Andy Vandel
Pierre, SD